possible macro-economic instability. These pre-conditions include a sound and flexible domestic financial system able to adapt repidly to changing situations, reduction in fiscal deficit, moderation in inflation, a sustained export performance and a further build-up of foreign exchange reserves. The on-going economic reforms, which aim at achieving these pre-conditions, will guide the timing and the sequencing of further capital liberalisation and facilitate a move to wards full convertibility of the rupee.

North-East Drug Trade Routes

1078. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the North-East drug trade routes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Narcotics Control Bureau is helpless in checking the transportation of drugs from Myanmar into the North Eastern States;

(c) what measures have been taken up by Government to control the smuggling of drugs specially heroine to the country; and

(d) whether the Indo-Myanmar trade treaty will help drug trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Narcotics Control Bureau as nodal agency for drug law enforcement has taken following steps to control smuggling of drugs from Myanmar into North-Eastern States of India:—

(i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.

(ii) Due to NCB's persistent efforts, the Police forces of North-eastern States have been fully activated to take counter narcotic trafficking measures. The dedicated Narcotic cells are now operational in Nagaland Police, Mizoram Police, Assam Police and Manipur Police. In addition, similar dedicated narcotic cells have also been set up in the Customs and Central Excise formations at Shillong and Nagaland.

(iii) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.

(iv) Border Security Force has been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

(v) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.

(vi) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.

(vii) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

(viii) The Govt. of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers to Myanmar for detection of drugs.

(d) The Indo-Myanmar trade treaty is in respect of specific commodities. This treaty has no provision for checking of drug trafficking from Myanmar to North_Eastern States but Government of India has a separate Bilateral Agreement with the Government of Union of Myanmar for mutual cooperation for reducing demand and preventing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters, effective from 30.03.1993.

Countries visited by members of Fifth Pay Commission

1079. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries the members of Fifth Pay Commission visited during its term and the period of their stay in each such country, country-wise; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on foreign visits of the Commision and its members, year-wise including details of budget earmarked and that actually incurred, year-wise on the Commission?